Reply to Office Action of September 30, 2004   Appl. No.: 10/617,039

Amendment Dated: October 5, 2004   Attorney Docket No.: CSCO-032/7715

Amendments to Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11 line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Lines ~~325-335~~ 325, 330, and 335 together specify a policy-map entitled "p-name", with the policy map being applicable (line 330) to a group of multi-labeled packets being specified by the class c-name (defined in lines 310-315), and the exp bits of all the labels (as specified by the wild card symbol '*') are set to a value of 5. Lines 340 and 345 cause the policy map "p-name" to be applied to the multi-labeled packets being forwarded on serial interface 0/0.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11 line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

With reference to Figure 3B, lines 350 and 355 define a group (d-name) of multi-labeled packets which have EXP bits equaling 7 in the top most label of the outgoing multi-labeled packet (or the second label in the incoming multi-labeled packet). Lines ~~365-380~~ 365, 370, 375, and 380 define a policy-map ("q-name") applied to the group (d-name) of multi-labeled packets, with the EXP fields of the first (second label in the incoming multi-labeled packet) and second/bottom labels of the outgoing multi-labeled packets being set to 4 and 6 respectively. Lines 390 and 395 cause the policy map to be applied to the serial interface 1/1.

Please replace the abstract with the following rewritten paragraph:

A MPLS device which receives configuration data identifying a group of multi-labeled packets and desired EXP (corresponding to the 3-bit experimental bit field specified by MPLS protocol) bits (even in the lower label entries of the label stack) for the group when forwarding the related packets. The MPLS device sets the EXP bits of even such lower label entries, and then forwards the multi-labeled packets. MPLS devices further down the path may provide different services for different multi-labeled packets depending on the EXP bit values. A service provider may configure a

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autonomous system border router (ASBR) to control service levels for while packets are forwarded further down the path (even in autonomous systems not related to the service provider) according to an aspect of the present invention.